

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-13, 16, 17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Jonsson. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that Jonsson discloses the claimed invention except “forming a difference of the inserted contents of the data channel of successive frames...and outputting an error when the difference does not equal the predetermined value.” However, the Examiner states that it would have been “an obvious design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art...to adapt the comparison step for checking time slot sequence integrity in the method and device of Jonsson by forming a difference of the inserted markings of successive frames.” In this regard, the Examiner fails to provide evidentiary support for these statements. The Examiner’s remarks amount to nothing more than conclusory statements of obviousness without any evidentiary support. The Examiner must cite a reference in support of his/her reasons for modifying the reference.

Additionally, Jonsson fails to disclose inserting a TSSI (time slot sequence integrity) monitoring value into a predetermined data channel of successive frames to be switched, as required for example by claims 1 and 11. Rather, Jonsson merely discloses a marking device disposed at the switching network input, which provides markings of respective contents in the time slots utilized by the connection channels. In the claimed invention, on the other hand, an insertion device, located in the switching network, inserts a monitoring value (i.e.  $D(t_0)$ ,  $D(T_{0+1})$ ,  $D(t_{0+2})$ ... $D(t_{0+k})$ ), where  $k$  represents a whole natural number, for example, in the predetermined data channel tssi of successive time frames  $F_0$ ,  $F_1$ ,  $F_2$ ... $F_k$ . The monitoring value  $D(t_0)$  through  $D(t_{0+k})$  is incremented or decremented by a value  $x$  that is constant in value for each time frame  $F_0$  through  $F_k$ . Accordingly, the data content of the predetermined data channels tssi to be switched has a direct correlation to its respective time frame. Subsequently, the predetermined data channel tssi to be switched is re-ordered or switched in time and space such that, for example, the data content  $D(t_0)$  for the time frame  $F_0$  is undelayed at the output switching network line AKLM, whereas the data content  $D(t_{0+1})$  of the following time frame  $F_1$  is rerouted undelayed onto the output switching network line AKL0. Accordingly, the data contents of two time frames that immediately follow one another in time in the predetermined data channel tssi are adjacent in the spatially separated output switching network lines AKL0 and AKLM.

Claims 4, 5, 10, 14, 15 and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Jonsson in view of Cloutier. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons presented in the arguments above, and for the following reason. Cloutier fails to disclose inserting a TSSI (time slot sequence integrity) monitoring value into a predetermined data channel of successive frames to be switched. Moreover, the Examiner has again failed to provide any evidentiary support for his/her reasons for modification and/or combination of the references. Applicants' respectfully request that the Examiner cite a reference in support of his/her reasons to modify/combine, or withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122030600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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